

GHOST IN THE SHELL  
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 7 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY  
**MASAMUNE SHIROW**

TRANSLATION BY  
**FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH**

この物語に登場する  
様々な設定や解説や概  
念は全て妄想の産物で  
あり、現実とは無関係  
の娯楽物です。服用を  
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂  
ければ幸いです。  
またデッチ上げやギミ  
ックの「誤用」による  
二次被害には当方責任  
を負いかねます点を御  
了承願います。

LETTERING BY  
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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



# WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

## APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

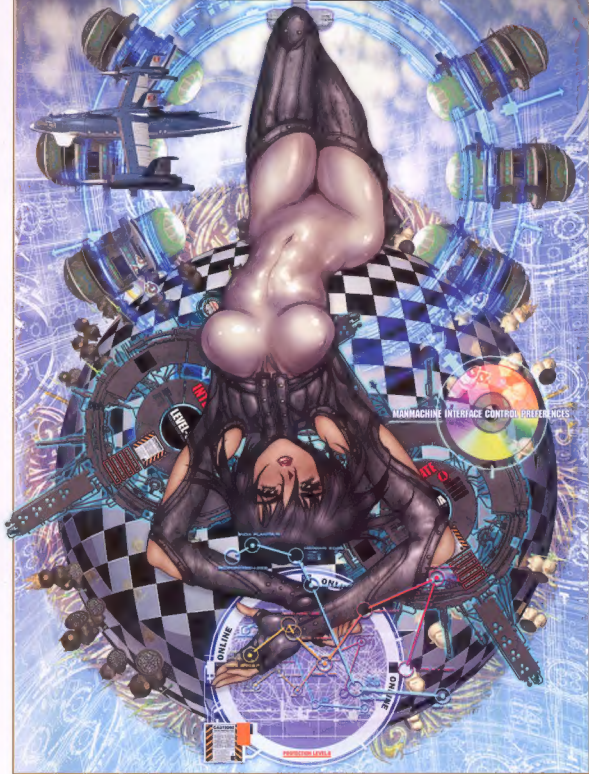
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M O L D O F L I F E

05



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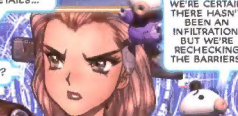




WE'VE  
CONFIRMED  
TAMAKI/TAKA/  
IS OPERATIVE,  
BUT DON'T  
KNOW THE  
DETAILS...



OH?



WE'RE CERTAIN  
THERE HASN'T  
BEEN AN  
INFILTRATION,  
BUT WE'RE  
RECHECKING  
THE BARRIERS.

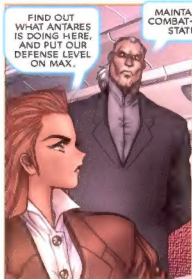
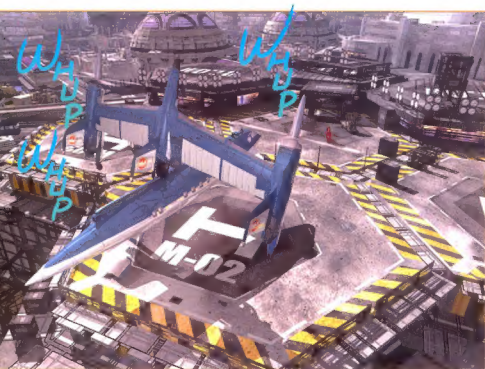


I'M GETTING THE  
IMPRESSION WE'RE  
DEALING WITH  
SOMETHING VERY  
DIFFERENT FROM  
THE "ULTRA-  
STRAIGHT"  
TAMAKI I KNOW...



I WONDER IF  
THE ORDER SENT  
EARLIER TO THE  
CHANNELING  
AGENCY  
ORDERING THE  
AGENCY HEAD TO  
STEP DOWN  
DIDN'T WORK...?





FIND OUT WHAT ANTARES IS DOING HERE, AND PUT OUR DEFENSE LEVEL ON MAX.

MAINTAINING COMBAT-READY STATUS.



THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT HAS APPARENTLY SEALED OFF DECATONCALE AND ARACNOSAT.

RIGHT OR WRONG, WE NEED TO RE-EVALUATE OUR POLICY ON CHANNELERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



DECATONCALE: Name of a special supercomputer in this story. Only three such systems exist on the planet.  
ARACNOSAT: Name of an optical satellite network system. Uses redundant communications lines to ensure throughput.



PERFECT.  
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE THE  
TYPE WHO'D BE  
CHECKING  
YOUR  
COMMUNICATIONS  
DURING  
LUNCH!

SO, IN  
OTHER  
WORDS...  
YOU'RE IN A  
HURRY.  
RIGHT...?

MUSTA  
BEEN  
LOOKING  
AT MY  
RESUME...



I NEED TIME ON  
THE DECATONCALE  
TO TAKE ON SOME  
E-THUGS... AND I  
CAN'T AFFORD ANY  
COMPETITION FOR  
CPU CYCLES,  
SO CAN WE  
CUT A DEAL?



SORRY, EVEN A TOP  
EXECUTIVE OF THE  
COMPANY COULDN'T GIVE  
YOU--PROBABLY THE  
MOST SUSPECT PERSON  
IN OUR WHOLE  
ORGANIZATION--FREE  
ACCESS TO THE  
SYSTEM'S CORE  
FUNCTIONS.

CAN'T YOU COME UP  
WITH A REQUEST THAT  
DOESN'T REQUIRE THE  
EXCLUSIVE USE OF ONE  
OF THE WORLD'S MOST  
POWERFUL SUPER-  
COMPUTERS...?



PRETTY  
PLEASE  
...?

SORRY.

YOU BIG  
MEANIE!



WELL, I GUESS  
I'LL JUST HAVE  
TO LEAVE THIS  
CASE UP TO THE  
SECURITY  
DEPARTMENT  
AND TAKE A PAID  
VACATION. YOU CAN  
TAKE OVER FOR  
ME.

WHATEVER.  
JUST MAKE  
SURE YOU  
SEND ME  
ALL CURRENT  
DOCUMENTA-  
TION ON THE  
CASE.



BY THE WAY, HOW COME  
YOU HAVEN'T MADE A  
REQUEST TO SECURITY  
FOR BODYGUARDS? MY  
REPUTATION AROUND HERE  
IS GONNA SUFFER.

WANNA TALK  
ABOUT IT OVER  
DINNER SOMETIME?  
IT'S FINE WITH  
ME... SEE YA  
LATER!



HMM...

DANGEROUS  
LADY,  
AIN'T SHE?

OKAY...I  
CHECKED WITH  
HR. CASH  
FLOW IS CLEAN,  
NO SIGN OF  
NEPOTISM OR  
NOTHIN'.

THE DEPARTMENT  
CHIEF AND FELLA IN  
CHARGE SECRETLY  
INVESTIGATED HER.  
THE OLD EXAMINERS  
OFFICE COLLECTED  
ALL THE RELEVANT  
DOCUMENTS...  
NOTHIN' SPECIAL.

WELL, SHE MUST  
HAVE SOME SORT  
OF EXCEPTIONAL  
CONNECTIONS.  
REGARDLESS, I  
WONDER WHAT  
KIND OF WORK  
SHE NORMALLY  
DOES...?

AT ANY RATE, KEEP  
GATHERING INFO ON  
HER. THERE MAY BE  
SOME DISPUTE GOING  
ON ABOVE OUR  
HEADS, SO I WANT  
YOU TO REPORT TO ME  
DIRECTLY, WITH AN  
INDEPENDENT TEAM.

SHE'S STARTED  
INPUTTING!  
I CAN'T TELL  
WHAT SHE'S SAYING  
'CAUSE I CAN'T  
CRACK THE FILES  
WITH THE TOOLS  
I'VE GOT.

AND SHE'S  
CYCLING THROUGH  
DIFFERENT RELAYS  
AT AN INCREDIBLE  
SPEED.

AT LEAST TRY  
TO FIGURE OUT--  
OR GUESS--  
WHO SHE'S  
CONNECTING  
TO.

HABU! I NEED  
TO KNOW HOW  
MANY SENIOR  
RESEARCHERS IN  
CHARGE OF THE  
DECATONCALE  
ARE OFF-SITE  
NOW.

MNF? WELL, IT'S  
LUNCHTIME NOW,  
SO PROBABLY ABOUT  
A THIRD. IF YOU  
WAIT A SEC, I'LL  
CHECK...

OKAY...  
TWENTY-  
EIGHT.  
WHASSUP?

IT MAY BE A FEINT BY  
E-THUGS SO DEPARTMENT  
HEAD ARAMAKI CAN  
CONNECT TO THE  
DECATONCALE. MAKE  
SURE TWO OUT OF THREE  
OF THE DEDICATED  
SECURITY TEAMS ARE  
STAFFED WITH NON-E-  
BRAIN PERSONNEL.

GOTCHA,  
BOSS.





YOSHU!

HEY, LONG  
TIME NO SEE,  
LEE! YO,  
WHAT'S  
UP?

?? YOU WANT ME TO  
MAKE A COMPLETELY  
INDEPENDENT BACKUP  
OF THE DECATONCALE?  
LISTEN, LEE, YOU MAY  
HAVE A LOT OF CLOUT,  
BUT WITHOUT THE  
PRESIDENT'S EXPRESS  
PERMISSION--



IT'S AN  
EMERGENCY?  
OKAY, BUT YOU  
HAVE TO TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR WHATEVER  
HAPPENS.



I'M MAKING  
AN OFFICIAL  
REQUEST.  
YOSHU, IT'LL BE  
DONE IN A FEW  
SECONDS.

STILL...IT'S  
NOT AN OPEN  
NETWORK  
WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT HERE,  
SO UNLESS  
THERE'S DIRECT  
ACCESS, NO  
CONTAMINATION'S  
POSSIBLE.

PLUS, THE  
BARRIERS AND SELF-  
AWARENESS  
HARDWARE  
ARE BUILT  
TO HIGHER  
STANDARDS  
THAN YOU'D  
FIND ON A  
NORMAL  
OPTICAL-  
INTERFERENCE  
A.I.

IT'S GOTTA  
BE DONE  
BEFORE THE  
PRESIDENT  
FINISHES  
HIS LUNCH  
BREAK.



WHAT'S  
THE  
DECATONCALE  
RUNNING  
NOW?



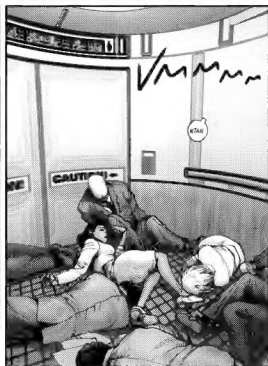
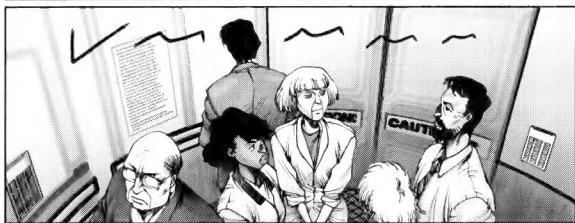
CHK

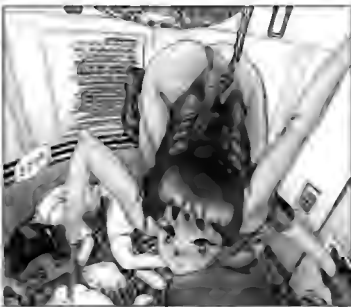


HMM... LESSEE...  
MAINLY HANDLING  
"HIBERNATING GENE"  
DESIGN FOR THE TRIP  
TO MARS, AND  
SIMULATIONS OF  
ECO-CEBOTS FOR THE  
EUROPA PLAN...



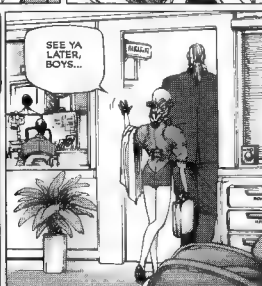
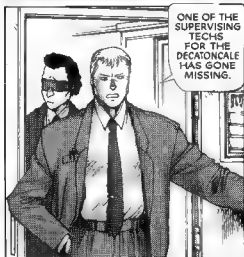
...BUT THERE  
IS ONE  
TOP SECRET  
RESEARCH  
PROJECT FOR  
A SPECIAL  
GROUP  
OUTSIDE THE  
FIRM.

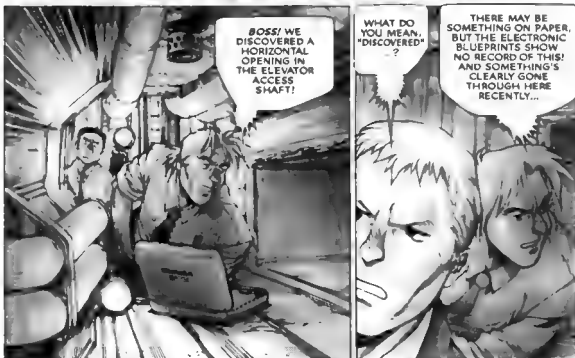












Eye-pull. This isn't the name of a high tech device, but a technique such as a magician might use, but to use a feat in martial arts. It requires using movements of elements that attract attention (in a properly timed fashion), and help to direct attention and short term memory in a specific way. In this case maybe we could call it "sight of leg."

PUT TOGETHER A DATASET AND SEND IT TO ME. WHAT'S THE NEWS FROM THE CEBOTS?



THEY HAVEN'T ALL PHONED IN YET



SWITCH ALL DECATONCALE FACILITY LOG-IN KEYS TO THE EMERGENCY BACKUPS AND REVOKE THE PASSWORDS OF ALL ALPHA ACCESS RESEARCHERS.

YES, SIR



PUT AN ROV SPIDER IN THE HORIZONTAL SHAFT, AND USE GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR TO REMAP THE AREA

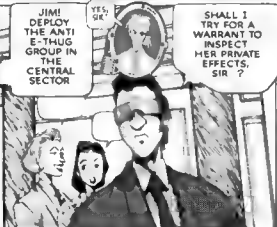


JIMI! DEPLOY THE ANTI E-THUG GROUP IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR

YES, SIR



SHALL I TRY FOR A WARRANT TO INSPECT HER PRIVATE EFFECTS, SIR?



GIVE IT A SHOT! WE'RE FACING TOO MANY VARIABLES HERE. WE'VE GOT TO TAKE AS MANY DEFENSIVE MEASURES AS POSSIBLE FOR NOW



ALMOST MAKES YOU WANNA CALL IN INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS, DOESN'T IT?

URE!

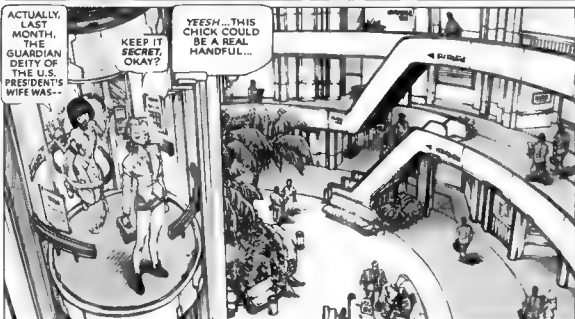


SIR!! THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SPIDER LEFT IN THE WAREHOUSE! ALL RECORDS OF THEM AND THEIR SUPPORT EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN LOST!

WHAT?! WE GOT SOME KINDA BLACK HOLE IN THE ORGANIZATION? FIND 'EM!!



I've heard about the U.S. army's plans to use more fully equipped infantry and stream line and speed up the mobile armored forces (don't forget to reform the navy and the forces stationed in Japan when you're at it). Of course that's mainly for combat operations in different overseas environments, but as I mentioned before, Japan's military could use some major modernizing, too. The navy and the marine safety agency, in particular, seem to be handicapped by too many concepts that date back to World War II, if you ask me. And you think the current army can really respond to a guerrilla action in an urban environment? That stated, I'd hate to see any swap made that involved the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Japan and a permanent stationing of atomic powered carriers in the East China Sea.





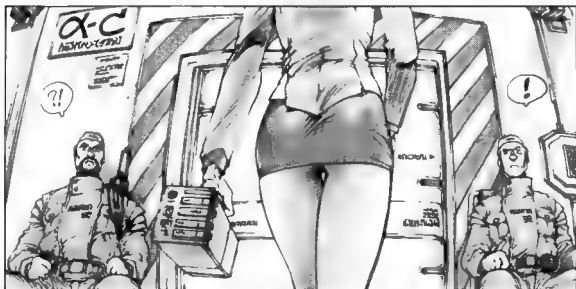


STOP WHINING AND PAY ATTENTION! YOUR FEED IS BREAKING UP SO DON'T COUNT ON ME TO NOTICE EVERYTHING.



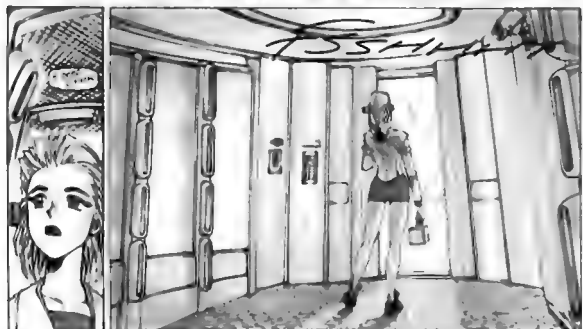
I CAN'T  
SEE A DAMN  
THING!  
JIM...?





SIR! MS. ARAMAKI JUST SHOWED UP AT DECATONCALE ACCESS GATEWAY ALPHA-C AND THE SECURITY GUARDS HAVE ALL COLLAPSED! SHALL I SEND PATROLS AIS AND 16 TO THE SITE...?







DAMMIT, HABU!  
YOU WERE  
SUPPOSED TO  
SWITCH THE  
SYSTEM OVER TO  
THE EMERGENCY  
KEYS!

I DID!  
I  
SWEAR!

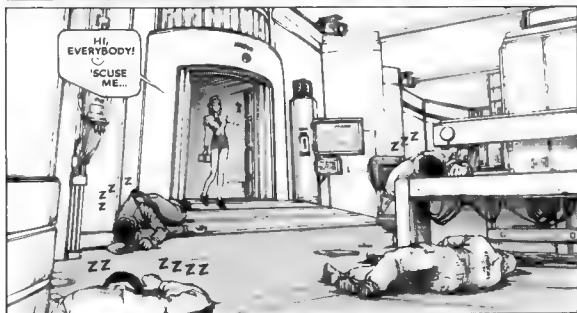


THAT ROOM DOESN'T  
USE A DIGITALLY  
ENCRYPTED KEY--IT'S  
HARDWARE AND NOT  
EXACTLY SOMETHING  
YOU CAN CRACK  
WITH A COUPLE OF  
PICKS!

SHE  
MUST'VE  
GOTTEN AN  
EMERGENCY  
KEY IN  
ADVANCE!!



SO THE ONLY  
REASON SHE  
SNATCHED THE  
SUPERVISING  
RESEARCHER WAS  
TO GET US TO  
CHANGE THE  
DAMN KEYS!!



HI,  
EVERYBODY!  
'SCUSE  
ME...



WHAT'S  
WITH  
THESE  
PEOPLE?  
A GROUP  
NAP?  
HOW  
UNPROFESSIONAL!

IT'S A SPECIAL GAS,  
PLUS A LATENT  
VIRUS...I GOT IT FROM  
THE WAREHOUSE IN  
WARD SEVEN. MY  
COMPANY'S  
PRODUCTS ARE  
DEFINITELY  
THE BEST. ♡





LESSEE . THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE PLACES A HUMAN OR HUMAN-ASPECT PROSTHETIC BODY CAN GET THROUGH THE ACCESS SHAFTS LEADING INTO THE DECATONCALE... AND EIGHT OF THOSE ARE BEING BLOCKED BY SPIDERS.

IS SLEEPY JIM STILL BLOCKING ONE?? IF HE IS, HAUL HIM OUT OF THERE!

PUT TOGETHER AN ARMORED ASSAULT TEAM FOR ME, AND SEND THEM OVER TO THE CENTRAL SECTOR

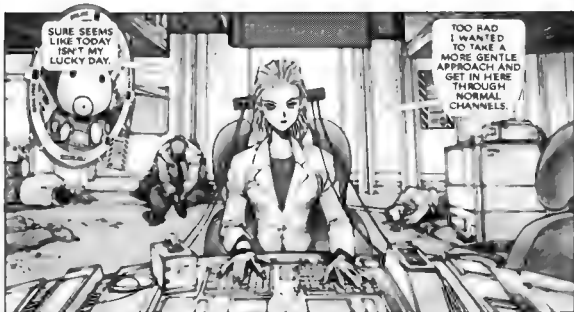
GOTCHA!

MISS! SECURITY HERE! I NEED TO CONTACT THE PRESIDENT, ON THE DOUBLE!

ON ?

THE PRESIDENT'S OUT ON PERSONAL BUSINESS NOW. SIR AND I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO CONTACT HIM

THIS IS *NOT* MY LUCKY DAY..



SURE SEEMS  
LIKE TODAY  
ISN'T MY  
LUCKY DAY.

TOO BAD  
I WANTED  
TO TAKE A  
MORE GENTLE  
APPROACH AND  
GET IN HERE  
THROUGH  
NORMAL  
CHANNELS.

↑ COMPANY LAN TERMINAL

↑ HARDENED BARRIER & SURROGATE RESET BOX

DECATONCALE TERMINAL ↑



WANT ME TO  
ACTIVATE THE  
BODY ARMOR  
VIRUS?

NOT 'TIL  
I TELL  
YOU.

WE'RE  
WORKING  
BACK FROM  
THE POINT  
WHERE THEY  
CALLED IN THE  
POLICE ATTACK  
FORCE... GOT  
THE SATELLITE  
SETTINGS?

DEPLOYING  
ALONG THREE  
AXES OF ROUTE  
ARRAYS...  
STANDING BY  
WITH ALL TYPES  
OF ATTACK  
BARRIERS!

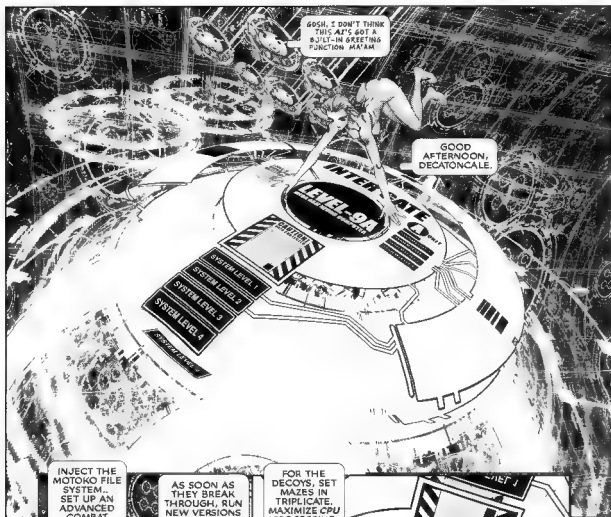
THERE ARE 17  
SATELLITES  
ABOVE HQ. HOW  
DO YOU WANT  
TO CONNECT  
THE COMPANY'S  
INTERNAL  
ROUTES TO THE  
DECATONCALE?

WE'LL DEPLOY  
WITH MAXIMUM  
ORDINARY  
THRESHOLD.  
SET A 0.5MS  
GAP FOR  
PURSUERS

I WANT A  
BACKUP WITH  
FULL  
FUNCTIONALITY!  
AND WATCH OUT FOR  
ANY COMPOUND  
VIRUSES!



GIVE TOP  
PRIORITY  
TO THE  
SYSTEM'S  
NEW AREA  
SETTINGS!



GOSH, I DON'T THINK  
THIS AP'S GOT A  
BUILT-IN GREETING  
FUNCTION MA'AM

GOOD  
AFTERNOON,  
DECATONCALE.

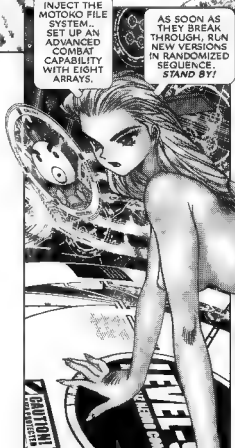
INJECT THE  
MOTOKO FILE  
SYSTEM...  
SET UP AN  
ADVANCED  
COMBAT  
CAPABILITY  
WITH EIGHT  
ARRAYS.

AS SOON AS  
THEY BREAK  
THROUGH, RUN  
NEW VERSIONS  
IN RANDOMIZED  
SEQUENCE.  
**STAND BY!**

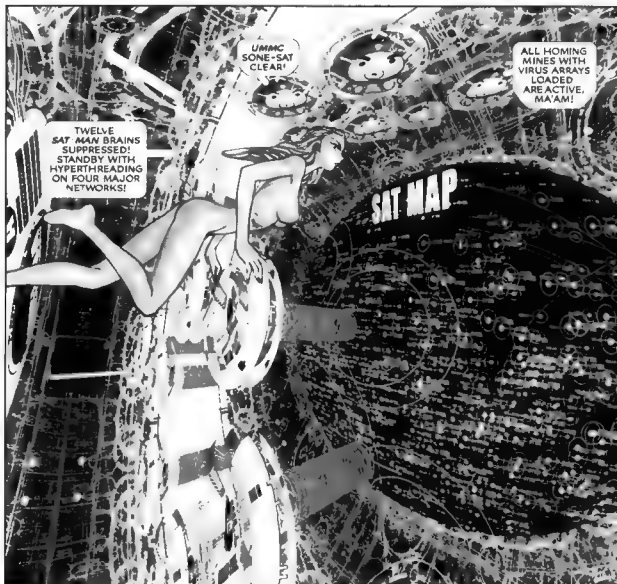
FOR THE  
DECOYS, SET  
MAZES IN  
TRIPLICATE.  
MAXIMIZE CPU  
PROCESSING  
LOAD.

ASSUME WE'RE  
FACING MULTIPLE  
ENEMIES AND  
DISPERSE THE  
SETS. SPLIT UP  
INTO FOUR  
GROUPS AND  
ACTIVATE  
THRESHOLD  
TRIGGERS!

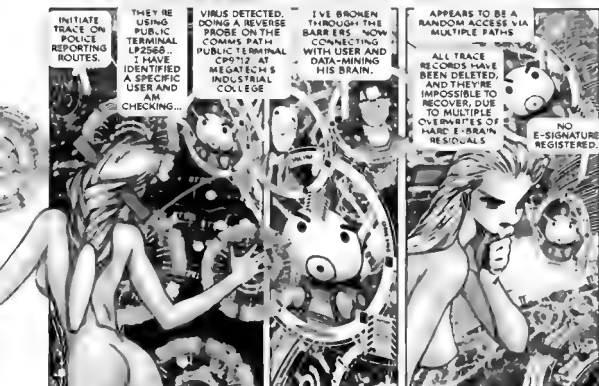
LINK TO  
ALL KNOWN  
SATELLITE  
SYSTEMS!

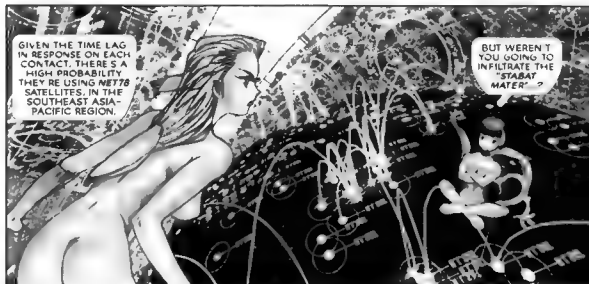






MOTOKO M2: Name of the other Motoko decot, the one who has been stopped by security.





GIVEN THE TIME LAG  
IN RESPONSE ON EACH  
CONTACT, THERE'S A  
HIGH PROBABILITY  
THEY'RE USING MET78  
SATELLITES, IN THE  
SOUTHEAST ASIA-  
PACIFIC REGION.

BUT WEREN'T  
YOU GOING TO  
INFILTRATE THE  
"STABAT  
MATER"? ?

YOU'RE STILL HERE? TELL  
YOU WHAT-- IF YOU CAN  
PROVE YOU'RE NOT AN  
ILLUSION, COUGHED UP  
BY MY SUBCONSCIOUS,  
I MIGHT PAY ATTENTION  
TO YOU

OUCH  
THAT'S A  
TOUGH  
ONE

THE MORE  
TIME GOES BY,  
THE MORE THE  
BROADCASTING  
AREAS  
SHIFT. HMM  
THE SOURCE  
MUST BE  
IN MOTION.



ALONG  
THIS  
COURSE

WITH NO  
CONSTRAINTS  
FROM  
LANDFORMS!

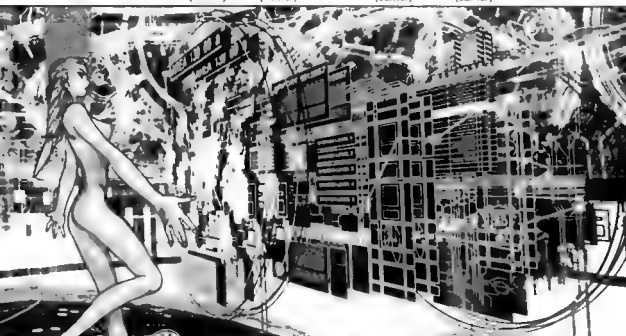
HOOK  
ME INTO  
THE AIR  
TRAFFIC  
CONTROL  
SYSTEM  
FOR THE  
ENTIRE  
AREA!

AREA MAP  
(barrier)

AIRPORT MAIN SYSTEM  
(barrier)

EMPLOYEE FILE  
(barrier)

AIRPORT MAIN SYSTEM CORE  
(barrier)



BARRIER 128  
NOW  
CLEARED!  
BUILDING  
ROUTE AND  
EXECUTING  
CONVERS ON

I'LL NEVER  
BE ABLE TO  
QUIT  
MY JOB AFTER  
EXPERIENCING  
THIS KIND OF  
POWER

TARGET  
GROUPS

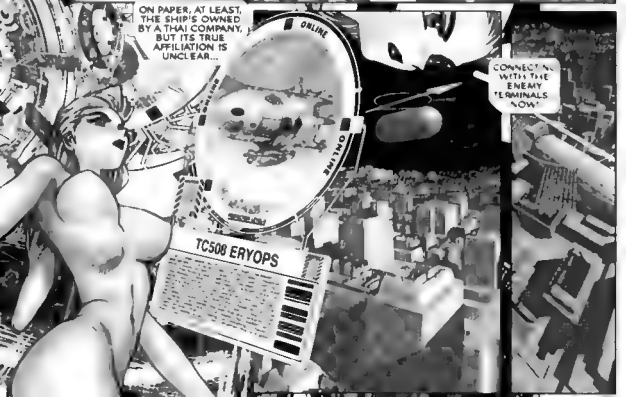
I CAN SEE  
THE AIRSHIP  
WE'RE  
INTERESTED  
IN AND  
EVERYTHING  
AROUND IT,  
TOO...



ON PAPER, AT LEAST,  
THE SHIP'S OWNED  
BY A THAI COMPANY,  
BUT ITS TRUE  
AFFILIATION IS  
UNCLEAR...

ONLINE

CONNECTING  
WITH THE  
ENEMY  
TERMINALS  
NOW!



TC508 ERYOPS

THIS IS  
AREA 199  
CONTROL 09  
COME IN  
YCS08!

WE HAVE A RANK  
THREE ENEMY  
AN ADVANCED  
DEFENSE SYSTEM  
IS IN WHAT'S  
APPARENTLY A  
HUMAN BRAIN  
685 MINES  
CLEARED, ARRAY  
56 HIT.

THIS IS  
YCS08  
HOW CAN  
I HELP  
YOU?



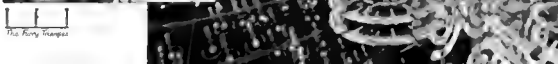
WHAT'S  
CONTROL  
WANT?

HEY! LISTEN  
TO THIS  
FRUIT!



HEY! THESE GUYS  
ARE JACKED FULL  
OF DRUGS! TOO  
DANGEROUS TO DO  
A FULL SENSORY  
INJECTION... THAT  
LEVEL OF BRAIN AUTO-  
PILOTING MEANS  
THEY'RE ALMOST  
UNSTOPPABLE!

WHERE  
IS THE  
BIGGEST  
BARRIER?





WHOA...  
THIS GUY'S  
BODY IS  
SOAKED  
IN DRUGS.

DRUGS  
ARE THE  
KEY

THE DRUG'S AN ACTH  
SUPPRESSANT CALLED LCH25OR.  
I CAN'T TELL HOW MUCH IS  
USED, THOUGH...APPLYING  
VARIABLE CORRECTION BIAS  
TO YOUR LINK,  
HANG IN THERE

HMM...AS  
EXPECTED,  
THEY PUT A  
LOT OF  
MONEY  
INTO THIS  
FACILITY.

CURRENTLY  
ESTIMATING SITE  
LOCATION...  
CANDIDATE AREA  
IS SHRINKING...



TO BE CONTINUED...

## INTERFACE

Send email comments to [interface@darkhorse.com](mailto:interface@darkhorse.com)

Send snail mail comments to:

**interface**  
**c/o Dark Horse Comics**  
**10956 SE Main St.**  
**Milwaukie OR 97222**

Interface,

You simply can't underestimate Shirow's influence. It's now found its way even into Future Studies.

There is an article at [www.betterhumans.com](http://www.betterhumans.com) called "Exploring the Posthuman through Science Fiction Stories" about humanity's future that helps us imagine where our dance with technology will lead.

If we think of human sentience as white light, and the prism as technology, then the obvious question to pose is what might shine out from that prism when we shine our brilliance through it? What possibilities might the future of intelligent life hold?

This is heady territory, misty, murky and unclear. Right? Not necessarily. There are markers ahead, looming from this fog as guideposts for us to the possibilities.

When we address one of those large issues such as the possible effects of technology on human evolution, much of the mental work on this question has already been accomplished by several generations of science-fiction writers over the past hundred-plus years. A survey and collation of their ideas reveals no less than twenty-one possibilities to date – twenty-one ways of being which humanity might evolve towards, or which might evolve alongside us.

Out of the positioning of the twenty-one markers, three distinct pathways emerge: The Path of the Genes, the Path of the Machine, and the Path of the Merging.

Shirow's work on the D.I., the Decot, and the Nested Human account for three of the twenty-one markers. And that's not mentioning that Kusanagi is an excellent example from one of the other categories, the Cyborg.

If his work is starting to be taken seriously as possible evolutionary futures for humanity, then that speaks to the power and clarity of his vision. One can only wonder what he might come up with next, which very well could be the daily reality in a hundred years.

Glenn Hough, M.S. – Studies of the Future

*Glenn, you've certainly raised the bar for letters of comment! While I must confess a soft spot in my heart for those thought-provoking missives that put forth the proposition "Westernizing sux!" or ask the timeless, burning question "Where's the orgy scene?!", I must say that your email is just about the most interesting analysis of Shirow's work I've seen so far. I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about, of course, but that's my cross to bear, not yours. Seriously, though, Shirow is as wired-in as any current storyteller to the possibilities of technology and the inevitable breakdown of what defines human and machine. I think what impresses me most is the almost matter-of-fact nature with which Shirow handles the subject, as if he were writing for a future, rather than contemporary, audience. My guess is that I'll re-read MMI in twenty years and finally get it!*

*And, by the way, you wrote that article on betterhumans.com! Crafty, these Future Studies types. Now that you're exposed to the light, let's have a round of applause for a well-written, interesting piece. Everyone, go read it right now...then explain it to me.*

I just finished reading issue #5 of *Ghost in the Shell 2*. It's probably a bit late in coming, but, in answer to Mr. Shirow's questions on page 15 (??? the pages aren't numbered so it's hard to tell...it's the page just to

the left of the center staple.), yes, it is possible to run a network over ordinary electrical wiring, it works reliably, and it is safe. However, for a variety of reasons, it's not likely to ever be popular. Home networking of the future is more likely to be done using WAP or some other wireless protocol.

Having answered his questions, however, I now have a couple of my own.

First, my local comics store managed to obtain a copy of the deluxe edition of issue #1 but can't seem to find deluxe editions for any other issue. Do/will deluxe editions for the rest of the series exist? If so, how can I get them?

Also, I noticed that, starting this issue, *GitS2* suddenly went from full color to B&W. While the story also works well in this format, I can't help but wonder why things changed suddenly like that. Is anyone allowed to talk about the reasons behind the sudden change?

It's a great series so far. Keep up the good work. :)

Siecc

*There was indeed only one deluxe edition of MMI, for the first issue. Actually, the limited edition came about pretty much by divine accident. One of our printers was doing a holofoil job for another client, with a run of about 2500 copies, but there was some extra room on the sheet, and would we be interested in getting in on the job? We thought it would be fun and look cool – and did it ever!*

*As to why the book shifts from color to black and white, there are a couple of reasons. Most manga are originally serialized in primarily black-and-white anthologies that have a few color sections, mostly for advertising, but some features will get the chance to have a chunk of the color section, and color art is produced accordingly. This was the case for the Young Magazine serialization of Man-Machine Interface, but Mr. Shirow added over a hundred pages of new color story pages after MMI had originally concluded its run. Most of the material you've seen in the first five Dark Horse issues was created after the initial serialization, which was primarily created in black and white. The series still has some of the original color sections from Young, and so the series begins in glorious color, bounces back and forth between amazing black and white and more glorious color for awhile, and then roars down the home stretch in even more glorious color. This is all probably far more than you ever wanted to know, but you asked!*

Dear Interface,

Greetings from the Philippines! Yup, there are many fans of *GitS* here! Just finished reading issue #2 of *Man-Machine Interface*. The story is very different from its early version, but I liked it very much. The art is now better and the girls of MMI are sexier than ever! I love that all of its pages are in full color. Surely, fans like me won't complain on the changes made by Mr. Shirow.

The story is really great! And the concept of Motoko having different bodies (agents) is a great idea! Now we can see the different faces of Motoko! I can't wait for the other issues. When will you release the graphic novel version?

Well, one more thing, about the "Remotely Controlled Humanoid Terminal," regarding Mr. Shirow's note about whether Clarice needed to wear underwear. Well, in my opinion, whether cyborg, Controlled Humanoid Terminal, or whatever you call it, they should wear underwear! In order for other humans to accept cyborgs as "human," they must follow human ethics and morals (like wearing underwear).

John Jasper Guce

*You've obviously given this underwear issue some thought, John! Frankly, I'll be satisfied if more humans start wearing underwear! As for the Man-Machine Interface collection, plan to see it in spring of 2004. And I think it's fairly safe to say that, ethically, graphic novels are not required to wear underwear!*



# GHOST IN THE SHELL

## MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 2

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